

for their lives. If you shoot mamma-  
san, you have to shoot the kids too.

It's the secret fear, unspoken truth  
that twists the heart to any frenzy.

#### Rejecting Advice

Oh, you poets  
with hidden rooms  
called the study.  
Or better yet  
reconverted henhouses.  
Let me tell you  
right now  
I won't improve with age,  
or do what I want.  
So shut up.

-- William Hathaway

Ithaca, New York

#### 16 Jap Machinegun Bullets

Norman  
Jimmy  
Max killed in World War II  
while I hid in old roominghouses  
in Philadelphia and San  
Francisco  
listening to  
Mozart and Bach.

with George it was a bad  
liver. Dale died of mislead  
ambition. Nick went the common hard way of  
cancer.  
Harry of a  
wife and 5 beautiful children.

Jimmy had it right --  
trying to bring that bomber back to  
England with half the motors shot  
out. Norman had it  
right --  
taking 3 weeks to die from  
16 Jap machinegun bullets.

we've all got it quite right --  
sitting around reading the  
comic strips

drinking warm wine and  
rolling smokes.  
at 6 in the evening we charm our blood and  
our manner  
as we walk our faces through the  
spiderwebs.

we've got it right  
we've got it right --  
the raven and the waves  
the tired sunsets across the tired  
people --  
it takes a lifetime to die and  
no time at  
all.

When All The Animals Lie Down

got it right, Gus?

Gus had this rag around his  
head and was digging at the  
dirt. he'd been digging 15  
minutes.

I'm getting it, said  
Gus.

we were sitting on the side of  
a hill watching the 5:30 p.m.  
traffic  
on the Pasadena freeway.

Gus was trying to get that  
round spot in the ground  
for hip and  
shoulder.

what do you guys do when  
it rains? I  
asked.

we've got a sheet of plywood  
or 2 in the brush, said  
Larry, either that or we  
go to the mission.

Gus tried the hole. it was  
all right. then he came over and  
sat with us.

we watched the cars on the  
freeway. they barely  
moved.